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Sen. Allen announces watercraft decal design contest

LANSING – State Sen. Jason Allen, R-Traverse City, in anticipation of the summer boating season, announced the 2004 Watercraft Decal Design Challenge today with Michigan Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land. Allen encourages residents of the 37th Senate District to submit design ideas.

“This challenge raises the awareness of a serious threat to our environment by invasive species and allows Michiganders to express their creativity and environmental support,” Allen said.

Introduced by Allen, Public Act 293 establishes the Great Lakes Protection Fund. The GLPF is designed to provide funding and greater awareness of efforts to eradicate aquatic nuisance species in Michigan’s waters and to conduct general research on Great Lakes protection issues.

“Tourists from around the world flock to Michigan every year to enjoy the amazing natural beauty and recreational opportunities we provide,” Allen said. “Our No. 1 natural resource is our lakes and waterways. We need to be stewards of our environment and do everything we can to fight off invasive species.”

The winning decal design will be selected by a judging panel led by Allen and fellow bill sponsors Sen. Patty Birkholz, R-Saugatuck Township, and Rep. David Palsrok, R-Manistee, along with Land.

The decals will be available to anyone in Michigan beginning Oct. 1. The purchase price of the decal will be \$35, with \$25 going to the Great Lakes Protection Fund and \$10 for administrative costs. When finished, the decorative decal will be 3-inches square and may be placed on cars, trucks, trailers or other vehicles. The decal does not replace the required watercraft registration or identification stickers.

Proceeds from the sale of the decal will be used to fund research and education to help eliminate aquatic nuisance species such as, zebra mussels, Eurasian milfoil, and flying carp from Michigan’s waters.

Entry forms to submit a design are available on the Secretary of State’s Web site at www.michigan.gov/sos and at every Secretary of State branch office.

Entry forms must be received or postmarked by midnight June 16. Mail design submissions and entry forms to: Michigan Secretary of State, Attn: James Fackler, 430 W. Allegan, Lansing, MI 48918.

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Editor’s note: A photo of Sen. Allen and colleagues announcing the contest will be available later today for download on the Senate Majority Photowire at:
<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/Allen/Allen.htm>